Plantaginaceae (Other) - The Plantlife of Ratho

2023-03-11 • Contact (FB) • Latest PDF • Folder of all Sections

Contents

• Toadflaxes & Snapdragons • Foxgloves • Plantains • Speedwells have their own document

Toadflaxes & Snapdragons

Chaenorhinum

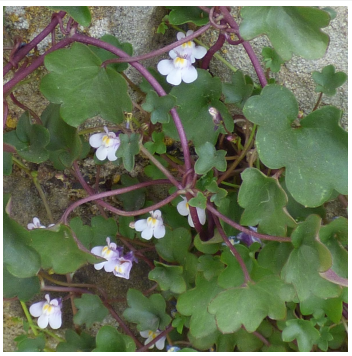
Small Toadflax – Rare : Pumpherston Bing; also Ratho (1934).
Distinctive, a small, glandy, diffuse plant.

Chaenorhinum minus

Cymbalaria

Ivy-Leaved Toadflax – Common : Walls, Rocks & Stony Ground.

This is the main one growing on the village walls. Its parts are unhairy (2,4,5) and can form long runners (4).



Cymbalaria muralis subsp. muralis

Italian Toadflax – Rare : Ratho (some Main Street walls), Ratho Station (Harvest Wynd).

Similar to Ivy-Leaved Toadflax, but hairy leaves, stems and flower bases (2,5) with bigger more bullish flowers (3), and lacks long runners (1).

Cymbalaria pallida

Ivy-Leaf Toadflax (white) – Occasional : Baird Road wall.

Form of Ivy-Leaved Toadflax that lacks coloured dyes in all its parts (apart from the yellow in the flower); of garden origin. In Cumbria I have seen it quite widely on the walls but seems to suffer there from the sun much more than the wild form (presumably the dyes protect from the sun).

Cymbalaria muralis subsp. muralis

Linaria

Annual/Moroccan Toadflax – Casual : Pumpherston Bing.

Distinctive.

Linaria maroccana

Purple Toadflax – Common in streets and nearby, some disturbed grounds and quarries.

The spur at the base of the flower is long and curved (3).

Linaria purpurea

Purple Toadflax 'Canon Went' – Occasionally may escape.

A pale-coloured form of the previous, not specifically seen in Ratho but escapes from gardens a certain amount in Edinburgh and could be met. It has the same long spur (3) as the prior.

Linaria purpurea 'Canon Went'

Common Toadflax – Semi-Frequent in disturbed grounds : Ratho (EICA viewpoint area, rail line path approaching Freelands Road), Wilkieston, Addison Bridge and thinly in most places around nearby.

Distinctive in flower.

Linaria vulgaris

Antirrhinum

Snapdragon – Ratho (Hillwood Quarry), Kirkliston (rail line path), Hermiston, Pumpherston Bing.

Very glandy axis (4,5). It can establish on walls or in quarries, and also appears as transient casuals. Ones on the wall by the path from Newbridge approaching Kirkliston are particularly well-established.

Antirrhinum majus

Foxgloves

Erinus

Fairy-Foxglove – Ratho (Ratho Mains farm wall, Timmins Track wall, Craigpark Quarry).

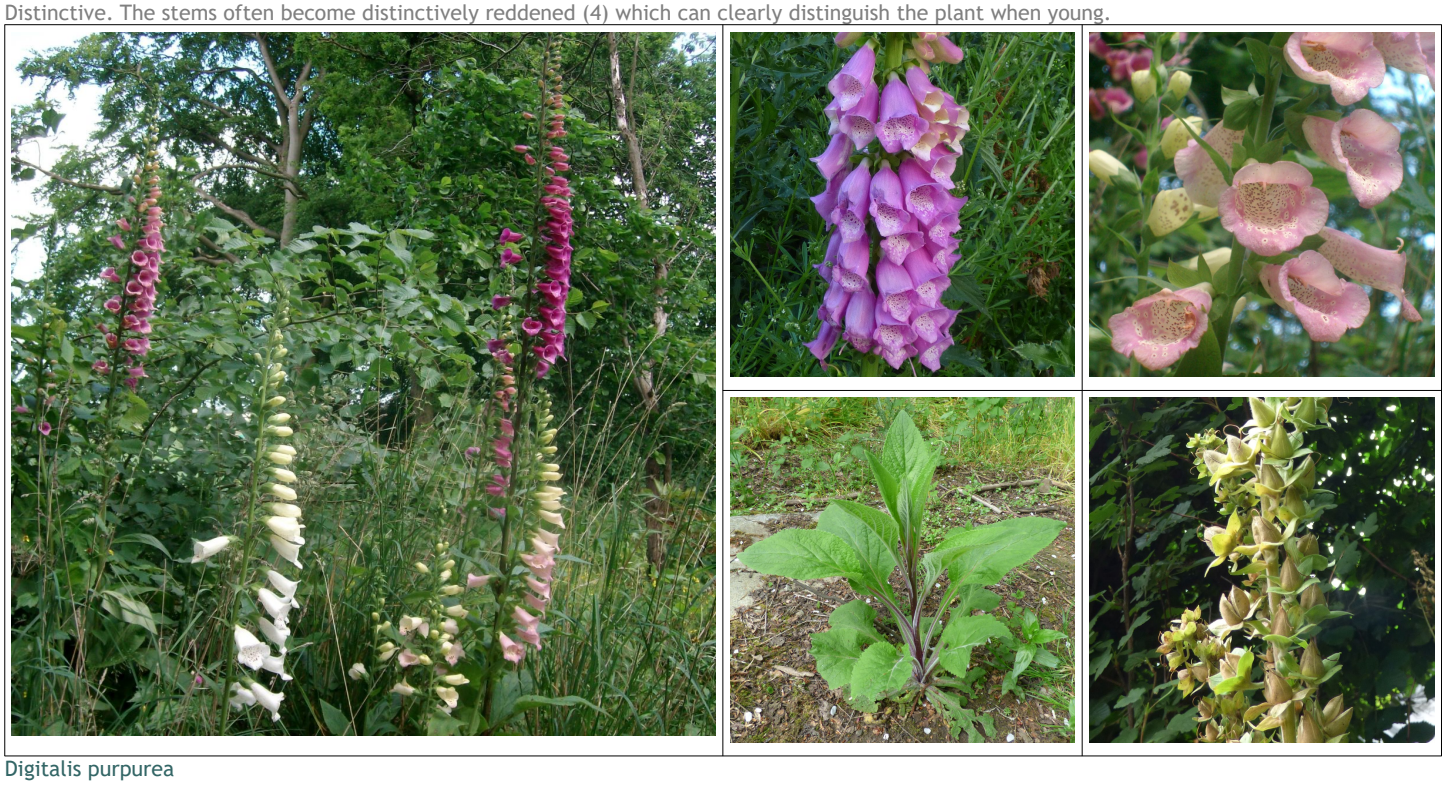
Ratho Mains farm wall has a particularly fine display, as does Abercorn Church perimeter wall. White forms can occur.

Erinus alpinus

Digitalis

Foxgloves – Widespread in half-shade or shade.

Distinctive. The stems often become distinctively reddened (4) which can clearly distinguish the plant when young.



Digitalis purpurea

Plantains

Plantago

Greater Plantain – Widespread.

The leaves are well-stalked (4), the stem unribbed (2) and anthers red (3). Sometimes Ribwort Plantain (next) has broad leaves but then the stem is furrowed and anthers white. There are a lot of rather peculiar ones in the Newbridge derelict grounds shown in (5).

Plantago major subsp. major

Ribwort Plantain – Widespread.

Usually has long narrow leaves but sometimes they are broad. The stem is furrowed (2) and anthers pale (1,3). Sometimes leaves are somewhat hairy (5). There are various forms, small and large, and one in the old gasworks had a height of 1.2 metres !

Plantago lanceolata

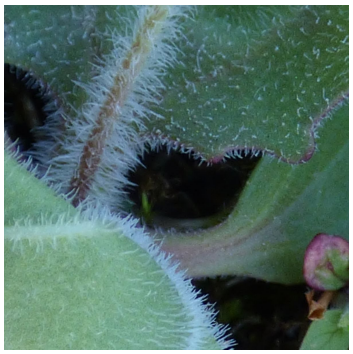
Buck's-Horn Plantain – Rare : Newbridge.

The leaves are lobe-toothed (1,2,5) and the plant usually decently hairy (2). It likes salt and so is easier to spot in South/North Queensferry/Dalmeny by the shore (where there is also Sea Plantain), and also in the city on account of road-salting.

Plantago coronopus

Hoary(ish) Plantain – Ratho (Cement Works, Craigpark Quarry); also Ratho (1934).

Hoary Plantain is a hairy plant with short leaf stalks and usually long (pinkish) anthers; but somewhat variable. It's hard to say if these ones really are Hoary rather than aberrant Greater Plantains, so they need a closer study, but they most likely are. Pic 5 shows an example of one from Cumbria as a comparison.



Plantago media